RNA FOR A BETTER LIFE IN THE HEIGHTS

RIVERVIEW Neighborhood Association

February, 1997

232 Ogden Avenue - Jersey City, N.J. 07307 - (201) 798-0493

RNA IS NOT AFFILIATED WITH ANY POLITICAL PARTY, ORGANIZATION OR ELECTED OFFICIAL

ANNUAL RNA ELECTIONS

It's time once again to elect new officers for RNA. The nominations for Chair, Vice-chair, Treasurer, Secretary and Sgt.-at-Arms for the 1997 -1998 term will be opened at the February 11th meeting. The nominations will remain open until the March 11th meeting - at which time they will be closed and the election voting will take place.

To be eligible to vote and hold office, you must have paid your annual 1997 dues and live within the constitutional boundaries of the RNA. The Association's boundaries are Ogden and Palisade Avenues from Cuneo Place to Congress Street.

We ask everyone to participate in this annual neighborhood activity. It is important for all residents to have a voice in decisions made in their own community.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Most people do not realize that a neighborhood association requires active participation of its members. Part of that participation is the annual membership dues of $5 per person. This is not a lot of money when you consider that it entitles you to nine issues of our newsletter, and voting priviledges in RNA, if you live within the boundries. Please support your community by paying your dues at the next meeting, or sending a check, payable to RNA, to 232 Ogden Avenue. (Any paid member who has not received their newsletters or a membership card, please contact Jack Rea.)

The Executive Committee

MEETING MINUTES: January 14, 1997

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Nominations for the elections of RNA officers will be opened at the February meeting, with elections held in March, to become effective in April.

The City has a part-time opening for a park attendant for Riverview-Fisk Park. Duties include maintaining, cleaning, and landscaping the Park. The pay is $8 per hour, for 20 hours a week. We would like to fill this position by spring. If anyone is interested, they should contact Vito Brunetti or Greg Brickey.

(continued on page 2)

DIVISION OF TRAFFIC ENGINEERING

RNA has invited PATRICIA BLAKE of the Division of Traffic Engineering to be a guest speaker at the February 11th meeting. She will be available to discuss the problems of traffic flow on our local streets.

One chronic problem that RNA will ask the Division to address is speeding vehicles traveling north on Ogden Avenu from Griffith to Congress Streets. The vehicles turn from Palisade Avenue onto Griffith and then make a left turn onto Odgen into Riverview-Fisk Park. By the time, the vehicles have gone the Park's one block to Bowers Street, they are traveling anywhere from 35 to 45 miles per hour. By the time they reach South Street, they are sometimes traveling 50 mph. This is a dangerous situation in a narrow local street where children, seniors and animals live.

A more recent situation that should also be looked at is the intersection of Palisade Avenue and Woods Place. Woods Place is a one-way, westbound, narrow street with parking on both sides. In less than a year, this once seldom traveled street, now has traffic emptying onto it from the two busy parking lots of Popular Supermarket and Christ Hospital's clinic. The problem is that this traffic can only exit into the busy, two-lane Palisade Avenue. The closest traffic light is at the next cross street: Ravine Avenue. In addition, there are many pedestrians crossing Palisade at this point because of the supermarket, the health clinic and the Municipal Building across the street.

There are other intersections that also warrant review. Therefore anyone with any problems or suggestions about the traffic flow in our local streets, should attend this meeting. This is a perfect time to let your views known.

RNA'S ANNUAL SPRING FLEA MARKET

RNA will soon start planning for our Thirteenth Annual Spring Flea Market. At the Feb. 11th meeting, we will be organizing the steering committee for this event. Volunteers with fresh and new ideas are needed to help make this year's event a great success. This flea market serves as a fundraiser for RNA's many activities, including the publication of this newsletter. Ths annual neighborhood event is a great way to meet your neighbors and make new friends.

Meeting Minutes (continued from page 1)

RNA is also looking for a volunteer to help with editing this newsletter. If interested, contact Vito Brunetti.

We will soon pick the dates for the spring flea market and cleanup; we also need to coordinate dates with the Incinerator Authority for a spring dumpster weekend.

Clarification was made on the RNA reimbursement policy. When a person spends or is appointed to spend on behalf of RNA, reimbursement cannot be provided on demand. Count on one month turn-around time from submitting receipts to reimbursements. If one cannot afford to lay out money up front, inform the RNA officers and arrangements will be made.

Thanks were given to participants of the Harbor View holiday party, and a suggestion was made to have a spring party for the residents as well.

Members are encouraged to check in on their senior neighbors during the winter, especially during snow storms.

Hoboken has reversed their position on the routing of the future light railway. They now want it on the west side where the existing Conrail line is located. RNA is asking for volunteers to lobby Hoboken and NJ Transit on this matter.

Volunteers are needed to start organizing this summer's basketball league.

Gardening season is coming up, and neighbors are encouraged to begin planning for the season.

NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT:

NID Manager Ufredo Merchan gave an update of area activities:

Jersey City has a snow removal program this winter for senior citizens. Pricing is according to the size of the area to be shoveled. The work is supervised by the NID manager, with area high school students, and billed through the mail. Contact the Mayor's Constituent Services, 547-4900.

It was also suggested that RNA should publish the names and phone numbers of youth who are available to shovel snow in our newsletter.

After some research, Ufredo found out that the garbage containers at 202-204 Ogden are legal. He will take further steps to see that the garbage is kept in these containers.

A recently installed chain link fence at Bowers & Ogden, across the stairway leading down to Holland Street, lasted only a few days. The wires attaching the fence have been clipped. RNA has asked for a more effective, lasting solution.

NID managers can talk with dog owners about failure to comply with cleanup laws. However, without a police officer witnessing the violation, a summons cannot be issued. But the managers should approach the owners and inform them of the problem.

RNA asked about the long-due repair of the fire hydrant across from the basketball court in Riverview-Fisk Park. DPW Director Kevin Sluka had said he'd address this - Ufredo will follow up.

Everyone is happy about the recent tree plantings on Palisade; prior skeptics are now interested. RNA will do another mailing this spring to solicit property owners for this Palisade Avenue Treescape program. We need at least 15 to 20 interested owners before another planting can take place. We may try to get some of these trees planted in front of the Park.

A stop sign will be replaced at Griffith and Ogden. Suggestions for other traffic control signs were made, including a stop at Ogden & Bowers, a 'do not block intersection' sign at Palisade and Griffith. RNA will invite Traffic Engineering to a meeting and give suggestions.

Trash cans were recently placed on Palisade Avenue, but more are still needed.

POLICE REPORT: Police Captain Donald Myers of the North District spoke about the following police activities and plans:

There are nine NID's in the North District, with 19 neighborhood task force (NTF) police officers assigned. Five bicycle officers are covering the two NID's in RNA's area. These five are known as the '5 most aggressive' officers on this side of Central Ave. The five officers are Keith Armstrong, Mark Conway, Mike Maffei, Scot Schnee, and Lorenzo Tosado.

Capt Myers receives 'complaints' daily from the Constituent Services office, by mail, fax, and phone. These are dispatched to the NTF, each with a deadline when a report is due on the issue. In addition, the officers follow up after a week.

Jersey City's new police chief is William J. Thynne Jr. He will be working to improve the coordination between the NID, Police, and Constituent Services.

In two weeks, 40 new JC police will be starting in the academy. Capt Myers encouraged neighbors to lobby the City for the North District to get its fair share of these new officers.

Sgt. Mark Ruby has joined the Community Service Police program, sharing duty with Sgt. Lici. Sgt. Ruby will act as liaison with NID and Constituent Services.

In a question and comment session, Sgt. Ruby addressed the following issues :

The intersection at Griffith and Palisade was noted to have changed remarkably over the last year, and has become quiet and orderly.

One neighbor received a letter announcing the parole of an offender in a crime in which this neighbor was a victim. The police will look up the records, obtain a photo, and keep an eye out for him.

Suspicious car activities were reported in the vicinity of the Conrail tracks. The police will forward the information to the Hoboken police.

A tow truck has been parked in Riverview-Fisk Park for over two months. The registration for the vehicle is in order but the owner does not live in this area. Since it has not moved, it will be considered a 'willful abandonment' and the police will have it towed.

Updated phone numbers for police contacts will be published in the newsletter.

More frequent meetings between police, NID, and residents was requested.

Thanks to Sam (of Sam's Jewelers), and Maria Tuzzo for providing refreshments at the meeting.

Cathy Packard, Secretary

NID PROGRESS REPORT

[Each month RNA will publish the projects that our Neighborhood Improvement District (NID) Managers, Ufredo Merchan and Billy Rodolfos are working on.]

BILLY RODOLFOS (North-7): A few months ago at my RNA meeting, I was notified about a homeless man living in a self-built shack on Paterson Plank Road. RNA and I were concerned about this homeless person's health and the potential problems he could cause on Ogden Avenue. The shack he had built and the refuse around it was a fire hazard.

I notified Constituent Services and they referred me to the Medical Center Psychiatric Unit which is the only facility that can legally enter a premises without the owner's consent. Their Mobile unit and I met at 9:00 AM on December 3, 1996 and went down to Paterson Plank Road. We entered the homeless person's premises and talked to him. We learned his name was Alberto.

We asked Alberto several questions and found out that he was a drug addict. He told us that he was interested in getting help. The Unit then called for an ambulance to transport Alberto to Christ Hospital for evaluation.

After several days, I went to see what had happened with Alberto. He told me he was being placed in a homeless shelter and was also going to a rehabilitation center for his drug abuse. He asked me if I had any clothing for him. I told him I did. The next day, I gave him two large bags full of my old clothes.

Alberto then thanked me so much for my concern and the help which I had given him. As of December 18, 1996, Alberto was in a shelter . The shack and refuse on Paterson Plank Road have been removed.

UFREDO MERCHAN (North-6): These are some of the problems that I took care during the last month:

1/21/97: Repair of the corner sidewalk at 274 Ogden Avenue by installing new concrete;
1/22/97: Replaced stop sign on corner of Ogden Avenue and Franklin Street;
1/23/97: Repaired pothole in front of 253 Palisade Avenue; and
1/23/97: Repair of water leak in vacant property at 233 Ogden Avenue.

In addition, I have informed JCIA to keep an eye on the garbage problem on the side of 202-204 Ogden Avenue. I am trying to get Brian Henry from the Office of Vacant buildings come to our next meeting.

CALL YOUR NID MANAGERS and tell them about a problem or complaint in your neighborhood or a suggestion to improve it.

Billy Rodolfos, whose NID includes Ogden and Palisade north of Griffith Street, can be reached through his voice mail at **547-4974, EXT. 8021.**

Ufredo Merchan, whose NID includes Ogden and Palisade south of Griffith, can be reached at his voice mail, **547-4974, EXT. 8015**.

Remember, these managers can only be effective if you inform them of the local problems. Get to know them and as important, let them get to know you and your neighbors.

FRIENDS OF THE LOEW'S

The Jersey City Economic Development Corporation has applied for Urban Enterprise Zone (UEZ) funding to pay for the reupholstering of the Loew's Theatre's seats and to make repairs to the Auditorium's fire exit doors. This funding would go a long way to completing the ongoing renovation of the Loew's.

UEZ funding is derived from the State sales tax and is intended to support projects that will improve the quality and economy of older, faltering urban commercial areas - like Journal Square where the Loew's is located.

However, some of the members of the City Council, which must recommend the UEZ application to the State, questioned the use of UEZ funds for the Loew's. In a Jersey Journal article, some Council members questioned whether the project was worthwhile and if progress had been made in its renovation. The article falsely suggested a choice had to be made between funding the Loew's or hiring police.

It is necessary to convince the City Council to support this UEZ application. Please call Councilpersons Nancy Gaynor (547-5474), Bill Gaughan (X6817) and Tom DeGise (X5277) and tell them to vote for the Loew's application. Write a letter to the Editor of the Journal or call the Journal on line (201-217-2500). The vote for this application may be on the Council's Feb. 5th agenda. Call the Loew's office on February 4 to confirm that date and go to City Hall and voice your support.

LETTERS to the EDITOR

HARBOR VIEW SAYS THANK YOU!

To all our friends at Riverview,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank each of you for the wonderful holiday party. Everyone had a great time. The food, music and magician were terrific. The gifts were great fun. It was so thoughtful of you to remember us. Over the years, our lives have been blessed by our friendship. We want to take this time to wish each of you a blessed and wonderful New Year! We look forward to seeing you often in '97!

Your friends at Harbor view,

Elizabeth McLain, Director of Recreation

REMEMBER OUR FAIR FOOTED FRIENDS

I am writing to ask all of our neighbors not to use SALT on the ice and snow. Although salt does a good job of melting the ice, it also hurts the feet of pets, leaches into the soil, killing vegetation - especially trees - and it ruins the leather of our shoes and the tires of our cars. Salt is poison!

Everyday when the salt is one the ground, my dogs limp and cry in pain. I have to take fresh snow and rub their feet several times during each walk. Down at the Park, where the City dumps way too much salt in heaps, the dogs beg to be picked up and carried. I urge the people in charge [at the Department of Public Works] to stop using salt. Please use the synthetic products which are safe for animals and vegetation.

Edith Springer, Mother of Jed, Louie, & Trixie

Bulletin board

From Valerie's Kitchen:

Linguine with Salmon & Lemon Sauce

(For an easy end to a hectic day - keep ingredients for this quick meal in your pantry.)

INGREDIENTS:

- 1/4 cup olive oil
- 1/2 cup onion, vertically sliced
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 tsp. finely shredded lemon zest
- 1/3 cup lemon juice
- 2 Tblsp. coarsely chopped parsley
- 1 can (7 3/4 oz.) salmon, drained
- 8 oz. spinach linguine
- Parmesan cheese, grated

1) Heat oil in large skillet over low heat; stir in onion slices. Saute onions until tender but not browned (about ten minutes).
2) Add garlic; saute another 2 minutes.
3) Stir in lemon zest, lemon juice and parsley.
4) Add salmon and carefully break up meat with a fork. Do not stir.
5) Cook pasta in plenty of boiling salted water until al dente, about 8 - 10 minutes; drain.
6) Reheat sauce over high heat; do not stir.
7) Toss linguine and sauce together.
8) Sprinkle with Parmesan cheese and serve immediately.

FEBRUARY

February is a great month,
President s' Lincoln and Washington Birthdays,
And most of all Valentine's Day:
Cupids, hearts, flowers and candy -
Happy Valentine's Day!

Madeline Rea

CONTRIBUTE TO YOUR NEWSLETTER

Drop off articles, comments and/or recipes in the mailbox, attached to the gate, at 232 Ogden Ave. Mark the envelope, "RNA NEWSLETTER." The next deadline is **Friday, February 21, 1997.**

Art Exhibitions

If any local artists would like to advertise their upcoming shows or exhibitions, please submit the information at least one month in advance to RNA for publication in our newsletter.

Recycle this Newsletter
Pass it on to a friend

POLICEBEAT

Residents can contact their **Community Service Police Officers Scott Schnee and Lorenzo Tosado or Mark Conroy and Keith Armstrong** if they have a problem, a safety concern or knowledge of criminal activity at **547-5350** (the North District station's frontdesk) or **547-5719** (community service number). When leaving a message, include your name, telephone number, street address, the nature of the problem and a date and time of the message.

In addition, anyone with information about illegal drug use and/or drug dealing, should contact the JCPD Narcotics Unit at 547-5391. Ask to speak to Sgt. Jimmy Melendez of the North District. All calls will be strictly confidential.

A **Community Service Survey** form is reprinted below. The purpose of the form is to alert the police to particular chronic problems in our neighborhood. Please fill the form out and mail it to the North District at 282 Central Avenue. (You can remain anonymous.)

JERSEY CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT
NORTH DISTRICT
282 Central Avenue, Jersey City, 07307
547-5350: Front Desk
547-5719: Community Service

Community Service Survey

Residence_____School_____Business_____
Name:_____ CSO Post#_____
Address:_____ CSO Name:_____
Home Phone (optional):_____
Business/School Phone:_____

PROBLEMS/CONCERNS:

Disorderly Groups_____	Drug Activity_____
Loud Music_____	Abandoned Bldg_____
Traffic Conditions_____	Abandoned Cars_____
Parking Complaints_____	Noise Complaints_____
Animal Complaints_____	Other(Specify below)__

Other Problems: _____
_____
Locations:_____
_____
Comments:_____
_____

NEWSLETTER STAFF

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SEE YOU AT OUR NEXT MEETING ON
February 11th at 7:15 PM at the
HARBOR VIEW HEALTH CARE CENTER.

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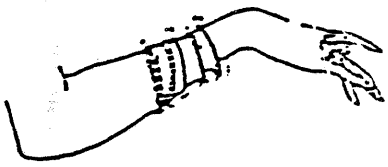

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Join your Neighbors and Make new Friends
at the next RNA meeting
on Tuesday, FEBRUARY 11th at 7:15 PM

FOR A BETTER LIFE IN THE HEIGHTS

Isn't it
to get involved
in your
community?

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FOR A BETTER LIFE IN THE HEIGHTS

RNA

Vito Brunetti
Chairperson

Greg Brickey
Vice-chairperson

Kathy Packard
Secretary

Jack Rea
Treasurer

Carol Rebelowski
Sgt. at Arms

COMING EVENTS

RNA MEETING: Tuesday, February 11th at 7:15 PM
LOCATION: THE HARBOR VIEW HEALTH CARE CENTER

1) Guest Speaker: **Patricia Blake, Div. of Traffic Engineering**

2) **OPEN NOMINATIONS FOR ELECTION OF RNA OFFICERS**

3) NID MANAGERS: **Ufredo Merchan & Billy Rodolfos**
POLICE OFFICERS: **Scott Schnee & Lorenzo Tosado**

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

FOR THE RIVERVIEW COMMUNITY GARDENS

(It's never to early to start planning for the spring planting season! Come to the February 11th meeting.)